

## LONG TERM RECOVERY COMMITTEE

Meeting Notes  
December 12, 2011

### ATTENDEES

NAME	AGENCY & INFORMATION	NAME	AGENCY & INFORMATION
Rocky Milliman	ADECA LTCR	Stephanie Southerland	ADECA LTCR
Corlis Floyd	ADECA LTCR		
<b>Via telephone:</b>			
Bob Haywood	FEMA	Donnie Chandler	Mayor of Rainsville/DeKalb County LTCR Committee
Jack Green	CAPNA	Bejan Taheri	Rainsville/DeKalb County LTCR Committee
Deb Ryan	Phil Campbell LTCR Committee	Shaun Faulkner	Holt LTCR Committee
Brenda BoBo	Rainsville/DeKalb County LTCR Committee	Caraly Foreman	Rainsville/DeKalb County LTCR Committee
Fred BoBo	Rainsville/DeKalb County LTCR Committee	Charles Centers	Rainsville/DeKalb County LTCR Committee
Dewitt Jackson	Rainsville/DeKalb County LTCR Committee	Wally Bryson	Rainsville/DeKalb County LTCR Committee
Larry Nelson	Project Rebound Team Leader	Jack Scott	Mayor of Cordova/LTCR Committee

### AGENDA ITEMS

#### Introductions

- Due to technical difficulties when the LTCR office's staff attempted to connect with the teleconference, Bob Haywood from FEMA opened the meeting and updated committee members with respect to FEMA's plans in continuing to support the recovery effort.
- FEMA is in the process of hiring Disaster Assistance employees that will be assigned to the various disaster communities based on their skill and knowledge to organize committees, search for grants and other funding sources, and help manage the overall process of implementing the recovery plans. The FEMA employees should be in place sometime after January 9.

#### Transition to Recovery Office

- Hard-copy, bound versions of FEMA's final strategic plans for the 9 cities/communities/counties that had requested FEMA's assistance after the April 27 tornadoes have been given to each recovery committee.
- The plans developed by FEMA need to be presented by each recovery committee to their city councils/county commissions for adoption. The LTCR office staff is available to assist in getting the plans adopted, answering questions that might arise, etc. Please notify the LTCR office when the plans are set for adoption by each local council/county commission.

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Meeting Notes  
December 12, 2011

### Individual Community Reports

#### Cordova

- Main disaster clean up is complete. Now waiting for an environmental sign off to complete the downtown district clean-up and demolitions.
- Currently have composite worksheet for park system completed.
- A primary need is to jump start the economy.
- Continue to pursue funding sources for a grocery store.

#### Hackleburg and Marion & Franklin Counties

- Triaged a total of 1,925 affected families. Of that number, 750 have unmet needs.
- Greatest need is for case managers.
- Also need construction estimators.
- Need coordinators to manage the volunteer groups that are assisting with recovery and rebuilding.
- There is a need to attract retail industry back into the area.
- Dollar General has committed to provide a “super” store which carries limited food items.
- Case Managers are reporting that there is a lack of affordable housing in the area. HUD in Huntsville reported that of the housing available in Marion, Franklin, Cullman & Lawrence Counties was 90% occupied. In the long term recovery process, a strong emphasis needs to be placed on rural, affordable housing developments.
- On October 26 the Housing Resource Center opened. It’s a 3,500 sq.ft. office facility that houses several community partners that provide long term recovery relief i.e., The Salvation Army, Cooperative Extension, Community Action, United Way, Legal Services, and Project Rebound.
- NeighborWorks of America presented the Community Action Partnership of North Alabama with an \$182,000 check to assist with community recovery in Hackleburg.

#### Rainsville and DeKalb County

- The Police Department has a fully equipped, spare office available for recovery staff, if needed.
- The 1400 students that attended Plainview school are now housed in 26 trailers. A major focus for the new school is to obtain funding for advanced technology. The band width has already been increased to handle the new technology.
- The National Lions Club has committed to donate over \$20,000 towards replacing technology at the school.
- Continue to work with Bonnie Durham, with the ARC, to help us try to obtain funding from grants to further enhance the technology needs at Plainview High School. The ARC has also volunteered to help with some sewer issues for Rainsville.
- Updated frequency band width for police radios.
- In the process of updating all the 911 equipment.
- Emergency Operations Plan was out of date and is being updated.
- Working to establish an Emergency Operations Center (EOC). Negotiations are on-going with a landowner who may donate land adjacent to the City’s police station. The intent is for the land to be used, in the future, for the EOC.

## LONG TERM RECOVERY COMMITTEE

### Meeting Notes

December 12, 2011

- The local LTRC Beautification Committee is involved in a project to construct a monument/memorial garden in memory of those who lost their lives as a result of the April 27 tornadoes. The project's estimated cost is over \$100,000, with a current funding gap of approximately \$40,000. Efforts are underway to raise the funds locally from businesses and individuals and bank accounts have been opened in every community in DeKalb County to make donating easy. In addition, architectural services and other materials have been donated for this project. The Committee has also completed a documentary video related to the disaster's impact and the DeKalb County Monument/Memorial Garden project.
- Rainsville's local representative has been contacted and asked to provide help in a project designed to widen a one-way bridge near the school.
- Crepe Myrtle Project: The trees have been purchased and planted.

#### Holt

- Holt's main focus has been to organize teams and committees to carry out the community's plans. As a result of the organization, a group called "Holt in Action" was created. Under this group, there are established committees for housing, jobs and economic development, community facility infrastructure and for "Holt's Voice."
- Received a grant to complete a greening project in the tornado stricken area
- Holt is a "food desert" area. Work has been done with local non-profits to establish a community garden.
- Some holiday events scheduled in the area that will help boost morale are: a tree lighting and dedication ceremony and a community Christmas choir concert.
- Future plans include the establishment of a jobs incubator and designation of an arts and heritage district.
- The primary issue Holt now faces is governance. Will we: incorporate? remain the same? be annexed into the City of Tuscaloosa? Research is now being conducted by Holt's committees to answer those questions.
- Tuscaloosa County Commission Chairman, Judge Hardy McCollum, attended the Holt in Action's most recent meeting. A request was made for the adoption of Holt's Recovery Plan to be placed on the commission's agenda for its January 18 meeting. Once the date is firm, the LTRC office will be notified.

#### Phil Campbell

- A fund raising documentary, "I'm with Phil," originally scheduled for release in January 2012 is postponed. For more information, see the website [I'mwithphil.com](http://I'mwithphil.com).
- The Memorial Park ground is leveled and the trees are planted. A successful Silent Auction was held Saturday, December 10, and as a result over half the funds that were needed were raised.
- Work is being done to establish Habitat for Humanity "Covenant" for Franklin County with Marion County as the affiliate.
- Industrial Park Project: Work is continuing with the Franklin County Development Authority to fund the project and locate tenants. There is currently a \$500,000 shortage in funds needed.
- A Birmingham attorney is volunteering to assist with the 501(3)(c) incorporation of the Phil Campbell Foundation. Currently the foundation is partnering with the YES Foundation and Civitan International who receive any 501(3)(c) funds for the foundation and then fund the

## LONG TERM RECOVERY COMMITTEE

### Meeting Notes

December 12, 2011

foundation projects. This relationship will continue until the Phil Campbell Foundation is a mature entity, i.e., 3 years.

- As of December 2, 2011, Health and Social Services is utilizing the Rescue Squad building. Certified volunteers will continue working in the Rescue Squad building until a donated trailer is rehabbed.
- Community safe rooms are set up for the school. FEMA will allow the town of Phil Campbell to keep the safe rooms for the community after the new school is completed.
- The project to re-green Phil Campbell is underway.
- A civic group, Citizens for Phil Campbell, is being organized.
- A Blog is being developed.

### Other Information/Resources

- Communities needing a grocery store should contact USDA and inquire about the “desert food” program.
- Hackleburg might benefit from conducting research in the area to see if there are owners of available housing properties that might be willing to accept Section 8 vouchers.
- NeighborWorks of America is a congressionally chartered, non-profit organization that helps distressed communities deal with affordable housing and neighborhood revitalization for predominantly low and moderate income individuals.
- If information is needed on the Road Diet (bypass and restriping) project, please contact Caraly Foreman at caralyanne@yahoo.com, or at 512 850-8060.